

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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LIHEAP Service Providers Committee (LSPC) Meeting
March 24, 2005
Sacramento

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Lois Carson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

Campesinos Unidos, Inc.
Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.
Central Valley Opportunity Center
City of Berkeley
Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.
Community Action Agency of San Mateo County, Inc.
Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, Inc.
Community Action Marin
Community Action Partnership of Orange County
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Community Enhancement Services
Community Resource Project, Inc.
County of Riverside, Department of Community Action
Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco
Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission
Glenn County Human Resource Agency
Great Northern Corporation
Kings Community Action Organization, Inc.
Maravilla Foundation
Mariposa County Housing and Community Development Agency
Merced County Community Action Agency
Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee
North Coast Energy Services – PROXY
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment – PROXY
Redwood Community Action Agency
San Joaquin County Department of Aging, Children's and Community Services
Self-Help Home Improvement Project, Inc.
Spectrum Community Services, Inc.
Ventura County Commission on Human Concerns
Veterans in Community Services, Inc.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the December 7, 2004, meeting at the Sheraton Gateway at LAX were approved.

Chair's Comments

Lois Carson thanked the group for the opportunity to serve as Chair for two years. She mentioned some of her goals over her term, such as exerting more influence on Congress, fair share funding, and increasing advocacy efforts for the program. Lois noted that she was pleased with the appointment of Congressional Representative Mary Bono from her district to the House Energy Committee. Lois discussed her interest in getting fair share funding for warm weather states and reported that the Riverside County Health Department is looking at the number of deaths attributed to heat. She encouraged the network to stay involved and keep the ball rolling on these issues.

In the area of advocacy, Lois reported that there has been some success, which was evidenced by the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) being taken off the Governor's list of boards recommended for elimination. Lois announced that a symposium on alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar, is being planned. Representative Bono will hopefully co-sponsor this event. Lois encouraged providers to attend the National Fuel Funds Network Conference in Phoenix this summer.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Nominations were received for Dennis Osmer of Central Coast Energy Services, and Danny Santos of Community Services and Employment Training, for Committee Chair. Dennis was elected Chair for the ensuing term.

Val Martinez of Redwood Community Action Agency and Edward OCampo of Maravilla Foundation were nominated for Vice Chair. Ed was elected Vice Chair for the ensuing term.

Chair's Comments

As the new Chair, Dennis commented that he would like the committee to work together toward common goals and concentrate on the "things that bind us rather than divide us." Dennis gave a special thanks to Lois and asked the Department to draft a certificate of appreciation for presentation at the next meeting. Zigmund Vays suggested that Bill Parker, former Chair of the Committee, also be recognized in this same fashion. Director Dayonot thanked Lois for her dedication to the job on behalf of the Department.

Dennis acknowledged the recent passing of former Vice Chair, Paul White. Committee members offered their thoughts and acknowledged that he led an exemplary life, and made a positive imprint on many. Paul was recognized for his quiet dignity, his fairness and honesty, gracious nature, his calming effect when issues became contentious, and his ability to help others to see both sides of the picture. He will be sorely missed. Louise Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting in the memory of Paul. The Department was asked to prepare a resolution to send to Paul's family. Director Dayonot announced that the Department will name its new training room, the Paul C. White Memorial Training Room. The Department will also be naming its Outstanding Leadership Award after Paul.

Director's Report

Director Dayonot recognized Buddy Ray for his outstanding leadership and his collaborative efforts as President of Cal/Neva.

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Meeting

Tim encouraged members to RSVP to CSD if they plan to attend the April 13, 2005, meeting with PG&E, as space is limited to 60 people. Representatives from the Office of Ratepayer Advocates

(ORA) will be in attendance.

Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB)

Tim thanked Lois for her advocacy efforts on behalf of the LIOB and mentioned that Senate Bill 580 (Escutia) may increase the LIOB's responsibilities to include telecommunications and water issues. Tim reported that the newly appointed Public Utility Commissioner, Diane Gruenig, is very interested in low-income issues.

Energy Bears Children's Coloring and Activity Book

The Children's Activity Books have been distributed, but agencies can purchase more copies at a cost of approximately 50 cents per copy. Attendees mentioned the books were useful; they are being used for outreach, school-based mentoring efforts, school readiness programs, and for distribution in community centers. The department mentioned that it was considering accepting ads to reduce or offset the production costs, but it was cautioned that that could be problematic. Providers suggested that sponsorships may be more appropriate, or partnerships with other state agencies that have programs directed towards children.

Federal Funding Update

Wendy Wohl reported that the President's 2006 Proposed Budget includes a small reduction (-4.5%) in LIHEAP, which is probably because LIHEAP has not been able to demonstrate results on the federal Program Assessment Rating Tool. There was discussion on sharing our performance with other entities, such as members of the Congressional delegation and utility companies. The Budget also proposes a very small increase (+0.8%) in WAP, and Emergency Contingency Funding (ECF) would be reduced nearly thirty-three percent, from nearly \$300 million in 2005 to \$200 million in 2006. The President still has \$50 million in ECF available for 2005, which may be released in summer. Since CSD was late in getting contracts out and agencies received the three releases of ECF, CSD will be open to contract extensions.

Petroleum Violation Energy Account (PVEA) Funding

Tim mentioned that the Governor's budget includes \$4 million in PVEA funds. The group discussed options on how these dollars could be distributed, such as amending the dollars into the 2005 contract, and extending the contract to 15 months, or possibly releasing a separate contract. The group recognized the importance of obligating the dollars in a timely fashion. Since it is difficult to guess when the State budget will pass, CSD will solicit input from the network when these dollars become available. It was also suggested that an agenda item be added to query how the agencies are doing with the new weatherization reimbursement model and recovery of costs.

Senate Bill (SB) 769 (Simitian) Energy Reliability and Affordability Act

Tim mentioned SB 769, which would provide for the replacement of 50,000 inefficient refrigerators annually. The program would be funded from an increase in the Public Goods Charge.

Weatherization (Wx) Automation Update

Wendy distributed a handout that provided possible WX automation system choices (attachment 1). CSD's goal is to have a new system in place within 12-18 months. The new system would replace the current CLASS system and it would handle cash assistance and weatherization services. The committee to work on this process will kick off in the next 30 days. Debby Knapp discussed the various choices and provided a top 10 list of things agencies should consider when choosing or writing their own system. Insert Debbie's notes here.

CSD is working with the State Controller's Office on electronic signature issues. Tim stated CSD can help with funding for the ServTraq System.

WAP/LIHEAP Contract Changes

2005 DOE Contract

A Draft Contract posted on the department's website on March 15th for service provider review and comment. Jason Wimbley apologized for the short review period; however, we need to receive comments by March 31st in order to not further delay the mailing of the final contract. Jason also said our goal is to mail the final contract within the first week of April. Most changes to the 2005 DOE contract mirror the programmatic/policy changes recently incorporated with the 2005 LIHEAP Contract, including:

- Incorporation of the LIHEAP reporting format to allow for consistency standards between programs (LIHEAP & DOE) with reporting, including the future likelihood of incorporating the use of the web-based reporting option of EARS.
- The maximum average reimbursement per dwelling weatherized has increased to \$2,744, and in the event of an emergency declared by the Governor, to \$3,156.
- Reimbursement for labor and material costs associated with the installation of weatherization measures will continue to be reimbursed at actual cost.
- The 2005 DOE Contract incorporates several new measures, including: Duct Blaster Duct Diagnostic Testing; Lithium Carbon Monoxide Alarms; Sliding Glass Door Repair & Replacement; Window Replacement; Manual Thermostats; and Hand-Held Showerhead Devices
- Mileage reimbursement rates are provided for all completed weatherized Single Family Dwellings (SFD), and/or Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUD) regardless of distance traveled. Reimbursement for mileage associated with a SFD will be allowed based on the 2005 LIHEAP approved labor rate.

Interim Guidelines and Standards for new measures and policies will be mailed to contractors next week.

Weatherization Task Force Update

- On March 17th, a conference call was held with the Task Force to coordinate the reconvening of the task force meetings. During the conference call, the team reviewed 2005 core objectives, and scheduled the next two meetings for April 14th and 15th, and May 10th and 11th. In addition, CSD announced that it will provide reimbursement for incurred travel costs with attending task force meetings.
- Review of Task Force Objectives

2005 Core Objective Summary

Objectives

- A. Review the existing DOE Reimbursement and Reporting models and propose recommendations for improvement. Explore various alternative options, including:
 - 1. Adoption of the LIHEAP Reimbursement/Reporting for DOE
 - 2. Modifying the existing reimbursement/ reporting model
 - 3. Identify and explore the feasibility of alternative reimbursement/reporting models
- B. Weatherization Measures/Services cost-effectiveness study:
 - 1. Determine the cost-effectiveness of existing LIHEAP and DOE Weatherization measures
 - 2. Evaluate the DOE Priority List and the effectiveness of the NEAT Energy Audit tool (software):
 - a. Propose recommendations for updating the DOE priority list based on the Weatherization Measure/Service cost-effectiveness study
 - b. Propose recommendations to the NEAT Energy Audit requirements with regards to its use and application
 - c. Explore alternative energy audit tools/software
- C. Performance and Program Outcomes:
 - 1. Define and quantify service goals for LIHEAP and DOE weatherization
 - 2. Define performance outcomes; including energy savings, health and safety, quality of life.
 - 3. Develop methodology for quantifying outcomes and Performance benchmarking
 - 4. Develop reporting model for capturing and aggregating performance data
- D. Evaluate the incorporated policy and improvement changes to the 2005 LIHEAP:
 - 1. Assess the effectiveness of these changes
 - 2. Propose recommendations for continued improvement and benefit

Announcements

- A provider mentioned that there have been some improvements in utility billings. The Utility Reform Network (TURN) and ORA have been involved in these discussions and have been making a difference.
- The DOE Conference will be held in September 2005 in New Orleans.
- Colusa, Glenn, Trinity Community Action Partnership (CAP) received an award from PG&E for excellent service.
- Riverside CAP is competing for the National Community Action Partnership's Award for Excellence that is tailored for community action activities, and is expecting a site visit in April. Lois encouraged other agencies to go after these awards.

Old Business

None.

New Business

The next meeting will be held in June. Dennis asked that agenda items be emailed to him at Dennis@energyservices.org.

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Adjournment

Chair Dennis Osmer adjourned the meeting in memory of Paul White at 12:15 p.m.